

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 06877 091914Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 /069 W

----- 045595

P R 091546Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7081

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: CATALONIA: A PROBLEM FOR GOVT AND OPPOSITION

1. THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT CATALAN REGION HAS REPLACED THE VOLATILE BASQUE PROVINCES, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, AS THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN THE SPANISH "PERIPHERY." CATALONIA HAS BECOME ONE OF MADRID'S TOP NEWS ITEMS LARGELY BECAUSE OF:

-- THE INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF THE CATALAN POLITICAL SITUATION, AS MANIFESTED BY THE POLITICAL TOING AND FROING WHICH LED TO THE CONSELL CATALAN'S REFUSAL TO ATTEND THE SEPT 4 OPPOSITION "SUMMIT;" AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 06877 091914Z

-- THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC ORDER PROBLEMS THIS WEEKEND AS THE RESULT OF THE GOVT'S REFUSAL TO AUTHORIZE THE HOLDING OF A CATALAN NATIONAL DAY ON SEPT 11.

2. TENSIONS IN THE CONSELL. THE 12-MEMBER CONSELL FAILED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEPT 4 "SUMMIT" BECAUSE THE VOTE ON ATTENDANCE SPLIT THE COALITION DOWN THE MIDDLE. THE SIX MARXIST-COMMUNIST GROUPS VOTED IN FAVOR OF PARTICIPATING, WHILE THE SIX NON-MARXIST GROUPS, FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF GENERALITAT PRESIDENT-IN-EXILE JOSEP TARRADELLAS, VOTED AGAINST. THE DEMURRAL OF THE SIX NON-MARXIST MEMBERS APPARENTLY RESULTED PARTLY FROM CONTINUING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM AND THE SIX MARXIST-COMMUNIST GROUPS--WHICH MAY LEAD TO THE BREAKUP OF THE CONSELL--AND PARTLY FROM THEIR RELUCTANCE TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE NON-CATALAN AND "CENTRALIST" OPPOSITION GROUPS WHICH WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE "SUMMIT."

3. WHO IS TARRADELLAS? AS AMCONSUL BARCELONA HAS REPORTED SEPARATELY, THE POLITICAL POWER OF THE 77-YEAR-OLD TARRADELLAS IS EPHEMERAL BUT REAL, RESULTING FROM THE LEGITIMACY WITH WHICH HE IS IMBUED AS THE PERSONIFICATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS CATALAN GOVT, OR "GENERALITAT," OF THE SECOND REPUBLIC-CIVIL WAR ERA. A NON-MARXIST AND A DEMOCRAT, TARRADELLAS IS ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN THE POSITION OF THE MORE MODERATE CATALAN GROUPINGS BY MERGING THE CONSELL AND THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ASAMBLEA INTO A MORE BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE COALITION WHICH WOULD BE DOMINATED BY CENTER AND CENTER-LEFT PARTIES. HE ALSO IS TAKING A VERY TOUGH LINE ON REGIONAL ISSUES, E.G., RECOGNITION OF THE "GENERALITAT" BY THE GOVT, AND IS CLEARLY TROUBLESOME TO MADRID-BASED OPPOSITION GROUPS WHICH ARE WORKING TO ACHEIVE A COMMON OPPOSITION PROGRAM.

4. CATALAN NATIONAL DAY. WHILE THE CATALAN OPPOSITION IS A HOUSE DIVIDED ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, IT HAS BEEN UNANIMOUS IN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE CELEBRATION OF A "DIADA DE CATALUNA," OR CATALNA NATIONAL DAY, ON SEPT 11 IN BARCELONA. THE DATE IS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN CATALONIA BECAUSE IT IS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE REIMPOSITION OF MADRID'S CONTROL OVER THE REGION--"THE DESTRUCTION OF THE FIRST INDEPENDENT CATALAN STATE," ONE SCHOLAR CALLED IT--WHEN TROOPS OF PHILIP V ENTERED BARCELONA,

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 06877 091914Z

AFTER A 13-MONTH SIEGE, IN 1714. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED CELEBRATION AND THE OBVIOUS "DEMONSTRATION EFFECT" IT COULD HAVE IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY AND GALICIA PARTICULARLY, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION COULD EASILY GET OUT OF HAND AND ENGENDER POLICE OVERREACTION, THE GOVT HAS REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE THE HOLDING OF THE "DIADA" AS PLANNED. CONTACTS BETWEEN "DIADA" ORGANIZERS AND THE GOVT ARE CONTINUING. INTERIOR MINISTER MARTIN VILLA CONSULTED WITH CATALAN

POLITICIANS SEPT 4-6 AND THE CIVIL GOVERNOR REPORTEDLY HAS OFFERED TO PERMIT A "SYMBOLIC" ACT, INVOLVING NO MORE THAN 2000 PEOPLE, IN A TOWN OUTSIDE OF BARCELONA OR SMALL-SCALE INDOOR CEREMONIES IN THE CITY ITSELF. THE OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS IS UNCERTAIN; THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT AT LEAST SOME GROUPS WILL ATTEMPT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CELEBRATION IN ANY CASE, AND VIOLENCE COULD RESULT.

5. COMMENT: THESE EVENTS IN CATALONIA ARE A REMINDER THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SO-CALLED "PERIPHERY" AND MADRID HAS NEVER BEEN RESOLVED TO THE FORMER'S SATISFACTION. TO MANY IN CATALONIA, THE BASQUE PROVINCES, GALICIA, VALENCIA, THE CANARY ISLANDS, THE BALEARICS, AND EVEN ANDALUCIA, THE REDRESS OF PERCEIVED REGIONAL GRIEVANCES AND THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SPANISH STATE ARE INSEPARABLE FROM THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION ITSELF. WHILE IT WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE AN ALREADY COMPLEX REFORM PROCESS TO ADDRESS THIS REGIONAL ISSUE EARLY ON, BOTH THE CENTRAL GOVT AND THE MADRID-BASED OPPOSITION GROUPS ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. IN SPITE OF THE ADVANCES SPAIN ACHIEVED UNDER FRANCO, HIS RULE ONLY SERVED TO TOUGHEN THE POSITION OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON REGIONAL QUESTIONS.
EATON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID06877
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760341-0199
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760978/aaaacotk.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CATALONIA: A PROBLEM FOR GOVT AND OPPOSITION
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006